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Vocabulary

All the words in this lesson contain the Latin prefixes *re-* or *retro-*, which mean "back" or "backward."

recalcitrant (ri KAL si truhnt) ADJ.

stubborn; resisting authority or domination (*The cowboy struggled to get a halter on the recalcitrant mustang's head.*)

recant (ri KANT) V. to retract formally a statement or belief (*No amount of pressure will make me recant my statement that our city government is corrupt.*)

recede (ri SEED) V. to move backwards (*The townspeople breathed a sigh of relief as the flood waters began to recede.*)

recourse (REE KORS) N. the act or instance of turning to someone or something for help (*His only recourse was to try and speak with the principal himself.*)

recrimination (ri KRIM uh NAY shuhn) N. a bitter retort; a counter accusation (*During their fight, Irene hurled one angry recrimination after another at her boyfriend.*)

recumbent (ri KUHM buhnt) ADJ. lying down; leaning; prone (*Wally admired the recumbent figure of a Greek athlete in the sculptor's studio.*)

rekindle (ree KIN duhl) V. to light or start up again (*I will rekindle the fire when we get up in the morning.*)

reluctant (ri LUHK tuhnt) ADJ. unwilling; not inclined to do something (*Edward was reluctant to take charge of such a valuable painting, even for just a weekend.*)

renounce (ri NOWNS) V. to give up something formally, usually as a matter of principle (*From this day forth I renounce my bad habit of lying and vow to be truthful.*)

repel (ri PEL) V. to drive away (*This spray will repel mosquitoes better than any other.*)

retainer (ri TAY nur) N. one who serves a household; a servant (*After the revolution, only one loyal, old retainer stood by the deposed king.*)

retrace (ree TRAYS) V. to return the same way; to make one's way back again (*If we retrace our steps, perhaps we can find your lost notebook.*)

retract (ri TRAKT) V. to take back or withdraw (*When you decide to retract your insulting words, we will be happy to accept your apology.*)

retraction (ri TRAK shuhn) N. a taking or drawing back (*Never! I meant every word I said, and you will never get a retraction from me!*)

retroactive (RET roh AK tiv) ADJ. acting upon or affecting that which is past (*Your retroactive pay raise applies to all the hours you have put in since January.*)

retrograde (RET ruh GRAYD) ADJ. reverting to an earlier inferior condition (*I was shocked at the factory's retrograde equipment and poor working conditions.*)

retrogress (RET ruh GRAYD) V. to become worse; to go back to an earlier condition or stage (*Instead of making progress, we are beginning to retrogress!*)

retrospective (RET ruh SPEK tiv) ADJ. looking back on things gone by; applying to the past (*The elderly gentleman took a fond, retrospective look at his life.*)

reveal (ri VEEL) V. to make known; to expose (*In the last chapter of a mystery novel, you know the detective will reveal who committed the crime.*)

revert (ri VURT) V. to go back to a former condition or period (*Now that the developers have given up on the swampland, it can revert to its natural wild state.*)